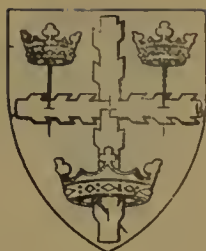


BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H. Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

**MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL
AND SANATORIUM;**

AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

1941.

Colchester:

WILEY AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1941-42.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

Deputy-Chairman :

ALDERMAN G. W. B. HAZELL, J.P.

Members :

COUNCILLOR W. ALLEN.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

COUNCILLOR J. CHASE.

COUNCILLOR A. CRAIG.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICKE.

COUNCILLOR F. A. JACKLIN.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND, J.P., and

MISS K. E. SANDERS, J.P., R.R.C.

(*Mayoress*).

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1941.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon) (on Military Service, from 18/9/39)
MRS. W. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon :

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*O. R. WARNER. †*C. J. JACOBI. †*R. F. KNOWLES
† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. * Meat Inspector's Certificate

Health Nurses :

*†† Miss E. R. SMITH.
*†† Miss M. E. RICKARD. *†† Miss M. PENNICK.
*†† Miss A. E. BICKERDIKE. *†† Miss M. H. WILLIAMSON.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT, A.G.C.S. Miss P. C. WALDRON.
A. W. MILLBOURN.^a W. B. WYNOLL.^a L. G. NICHOLLS. H. T. PERCIVAL
R. T. TAWELL.^a Miss I. I. SCOTT. D. R. FELGATE.
MRS. E. FISHER. I. C. HAZELL.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfector :

H. EDWARDS.^a

^a On Military Service.

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*† Miss D. COPELIN.

(Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing Certificates.)

Matron, Maternity Home :

*† Mrs. F. DENNIS.

* Certified Midwife. † State Registered Nurse. ‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

T. ALEXANDER OGILVIE, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Masseuse :

MRS. E. R. HOUNSFIELD, M., M.E., L.E.T.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :

A. H. MITCHELL MUTER, F.I.C.

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET,

16th August, 1942.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Colchester.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1941.

An even shorter report is suggested by the request in Circular 2604 of the Ministry of Health that—"on grounds of national security, care should be taken not to publish in the Annual Report complete tables of local populations, or quotations from the figures supplied by the Registrar General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed." However there is a certain amount of new material dealing with Diphtheria Immunisation and the treatment of Seabies which results in this Report being little, if at all, shorter.

The Death Rate is lower than that of 1940 and is, so far as can be judged, about the normal rate for Colchester. The birth rate continues to leap up and is well above that of England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate, Cancer Death Rate, Tuberculosis Death Rate and Infectious Disease Incidence are all most satisfactorily lower.

Interesting particulars are included in the Report of the Clinic for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria and of the steps taken in one of the First Aid Posts for the treatment of persons suffering from Seabies (Itch).

I am grateful to the members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for their continued interest and support and I cannot speak too highly of the loyal assistance I have received throughout the year from every member of the staffs of the Department, Isolation Hospital and Maternity Home.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941.

*An "Abridged Report" as directed by various Circulars of the
Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Birth Rate	....	....	....	....	16.2
" " England and Wales	....	....	....	....	14.2
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	....	....	....	....	12.4
" " England and Wales	....	....	....	....	12.9
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions	....	....	....	....	50%
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth— From Sepsis, — From other Causes, —	....	....	....	....
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—Legitimate,	33.7				
Illegitimate, 89.5. Total	....	....	....	....	39.0
Deaths from Measles	....	....	....	....	1
" " Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	5
" " Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	....	....	....	....	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	....	....	....	....	0.39
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	....	....	....	....	0.09
Cancer Death Rate	....	....	....	....	1.48

At the request of the Ministry of Health all statistics or figures relating to or indicating the number of the population have been omitted. But it may be stated that the estimate of the population is again lower than in the previous year.

This does not in any way detract from the very satisfactory state of the Public Health as indicated by the above figures.

The Birth Rate has again risen (from 15.6 to 16.2). The Death Rate has fallen (from 13.4 to 12.4) and the Infantile Mortality Rate which increased to the deplorable figure of 58.5 in 1940 has now fallen to the much more satisfactory figure of 39.0.

The Cancer Death Rate is again lower, and both the Tuberculosis Death Rates are lower; that for the pulmonary type of this disease has made a substantial fall.

The usual Table of the causes of death has been omitted but it may be stated that there were no unusual causes, that there were 87 fewer deaths than in 1940, and that reductions were shown under almost every cause of death in the shorter

table. Only one or two diseases showed small increases, the chief of these being Whooping Cough which caused 5 deaths, whereas there had been no deaths from this cause in 1940.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The work of the clinics and treatment centres still continues to increase and the work of the Health Nurses has been heavy throughout the year.

The following Table shows the work carried out by the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC 1941.

Age.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
9/12—5 years ...	5	23	44	31	21	81	15	50	43	47	21	21	402
5—10 years ...	14	24	33	13	18	72	198	76	53	81	36	28	646
10—16 years ...	6	8	16	14	15	47	122	28	8	32	31	65	392
Adults ...	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	11	—	—	—	16
Total ...	25	58	93	58	55	201	335	154	115	160	88	114	1456

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.

The Water supply has been regularly analysed and has always proved to be excellent. No figures are given showing the extension of water mains or main drainage. These are omitted in accordance with the desire of the Ministry.

Refuse and Salvage collection has continued as before, and no change has been made in the method of refuse disposal.

The reconstruction of the Sewage Disposal Works has been almost completed. The new Detritus Tanks, Comminators, Settling Tanks, Filter Beds, Sludge Digestion Tanks, Sludge Pump and Boiler House, and Gasholder and Sludge Drying Beds are all in full operation. The pumping of untreated sewage is performed by electrically operated pumps and the old steam plant has been dismantled. The sludge is now treated by a new process during which methane gas is evolved and the residue forms a valuable manure.

During the year four cesspools were done away with when six houses in Mill Road and one in Ipswich Road were connected to the sewer.

No fresh wells were sunk and no wells were done away with.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Byelaws, etc.

Defects found ....	....	....	2,032
Defects remedied ....	....	....	2,540
Factories and Workshops Inspected....	....	....	21

Housing.

Floors or walls or ceilings repaired....	....	....	236
Doors or windows provided or repaired	....	....	404
Ovens or firegrates repaired	....	....	71
Stairs repaired	....	....	41
Rooms cleansed	....	....	96
Roofs repaired (including rainpipes and gutters)	....	....	179
Chimneys repaired or renewed	....	....	78
Damp houses remedied ....	....	....	169
Yards paved or repaired ....	....	....	28
Other housing repairs ....	....	....	75

Drainage.

Repairs and improvements	....	....	178
Water closets provided or repaired ....	....	....	336

Other Sanitary Work.

Houses disinfected	....	....	157
Clothing and other articles disinfected	....	....	2,524
Dustbins provided	....	....	185
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices P.H. Act 2,564, H. Act 510,	....	....	3,074
Offensive accumulations removed	....	....	—
Pig-keeping nuisances abated	....	....	3
Other nuisances or matters attended to	....	....	18
Air-Raid Shelter Inspections	....	....	2,348

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Inspections ....	....	....	54
Premises freed ....	....	....	6

Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations.

Cowsheds and dairies were inspected at 232 visits and 6 contraventions of the orders or regulations were found and corrected.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations, and Offensive Trades.

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	25	17
Gut Scraper	1	5
Tallow Melter	1	11
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	8	14
Bone Boiler	1	11
Total	36	58
Horse Slaughterer	1	10

Of the 25 fish frying businesses 9 are temporarily closed. All the trades were carried on in a generally satisfactory manner. One Rag, etc., dealer discontinued during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

The three houses were conducted in a proper and orderly way.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses Infested—Council 8, Others 23	....	31
Houses Disinfested—Council 8, Others 23	....	31
Rooms Infested and Disinfested	....	93

There was a decrease in the number of houses infested with Bugs. The same methods of eradication were carried out as previously.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1941.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	....	—
(i.) By the Local Authority	....	—
(ii.) By other bodies or persons	....	—

I.—Inspection.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	1,010
Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	—
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	770

II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action	547
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III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

Under Sects. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	13
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Number rendered fit—

(a) By owners	12
(b) By Local Authority in default	1

Under Public Health Acts—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	82
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Number complied with—

(a) By owners	60
(b) By Local Authority in default	8

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders...	4

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

....	—
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IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	13
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein...	....	....	....	13
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein...	94

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
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(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding re- lieved during the year	6
--	------	------	------	---

(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	43
--	------	------	------	----

(d) Cases of houses again becoming over- crowded	1
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises				Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses	see note	below
Bakehouses	...	...	31 }	34	57
Underground	...	...	1)		
Dairies and Milk Shops	..	...	...	78	89
Cowsheds	...	...	...	40	98
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	90	78

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

The following table gives the quantities of other foods which were inspected and found to be unfit for human food.

<i>Type of Food.</i>				<i>Weight in lbs.</i>	
Butter	5
Sausages	122
Bacon	32
Cheese	29
Cooked Meats, etc.	239
Imported Liquid Eggs	30
Fish	2452
Apples	920
					3829

Tinned Milk	....	....	....	64	Tins
Other Tinned Foods	....	....	....	580	Tins
Meat Pies	....	....	....	216	Pies

The total weight of all kinds of foodstuffs unfit for human food (excluding Tinned Foods, etc.) was—

32 tons 0 cwts. 3 qtrs. 13 lbs.

In accordance with Ministry of Food Instructions all the "other foods" condemned were reported to the Food Executive Officer who authorised their disposal either for animal feeding or by destruction.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1941.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	10
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	4
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	....	....	....	....	1
Accredited (Bottling)	....	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised, Producer	....	....	....	....	2
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ...	47	9	(a) Fat deficient = 7%
Pasteurised Milk ...	8		* (a) " " = 12%
Bread ...	3		(a) " " = 5%
Flour ...	2		(a) " " = 28%
Rice ...	2		(a) " " = 17%
Coffee ...	2		(a) Extraneous Water = 5%
Baking Powder ...	2		(b) Fat deficient = 35%
Tapioca ...	3		(c) " " = 9%
Mustard ...	1		(c) " " = 7%
Coffee Essence ...	1		
White Pepper ...	2		
Mixed Pickles ...	1		
Jam ...	1		
Ground Rice ...	3		(a) Original Samples.
Camphorated Oil ...	1		(b) Course of delivery
Cod Liver Oil ...	1		Sample
Cream of Tartar ...	1		(c) Farm Samples.
Liquorice Powder ...	2		
Cocoa ...	2		
Tinned Peas ...	1		
Ground Ginger ...	2		
Orange Wine Essence ...	1		* Legal proceedings taken :
Mixed Spice... ..	1		case dismissed.
Boracic Ointment ...	2		
Aspirin Tablets ...	2		
Castor Oil ...	2		
Corn Flour ...	2		
Lemonade Crystals ...	1		
Compound Syrup of Figs	1		
Fish Pastes ...	3		
Cafe au Lait Powder ...	1		
Custard Powder ...	1		
Tinned Beans ...	3		
Malt Vinegar ...	1		
Tincture of Iodine ...	1		
Arrowroot ...	1		
Saccharine ...	1		
Sherry ...	2		
Sausages ...	3		
Brawn ...	2		
Sponge Mixture ...	1		
Cake Flour ...	1		
Essence of Cinnamon ...	1		
Ginger Wine ...	1		
	123	9	

Two Farmers and one Vendor were warned. Another Vendor who had been previously warned was prosecuted, his milk being found to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 12%, whilst a Course of Delivery Sample was genuine. He pleaded as a "Warranty," the milk Marketing Board Contract as between Farmer and Vendor and the Magistrates at an adjourned hearing upheld the defence and dismissed the case.

MEAT INSPECTION.*Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Beasts excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number Inspected ...	2426	717	2687	10521	3394	19745
Whole carcasses condemned T.B. ...	12	43	1	—	39	95
Other Conditions ...	1	5	7	31	11	55

The following quantities of parts of carcasses, or of organs were found to be unfit for human food by reason of T.B. or other conditions.

	Beasts including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Parts of Carcasses ...	5163	82	277	2707	8229
Organs ...	15076	—	223	759	16058

In addition 2,000 lbs of imported Beef and 34 lbs. of imported Pork were also condemned.

The total weight of Meat found to be unfit for human consumption was :—

30 tons 6 cwts. 2 qtrs. 20 lbs.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The noticeable change in the work of the Health Nurses is the increasing use made by the mothers of the Infant Welfare Clinics. Although the number of visits paid by the Nurses to children under 5 years of age has fallen somewhat, from 8,424 in 1940 to 7,750 in 1941, the attendances at the four Infant welfare Clinics have increased from 6,976 in 1940 to 8,530 in 1941. The present abnormal conditions no doubt account for both these changes.

Towards the end of the year some difficulty was experienced in obtaining dried milk supplies and of certain other articles such as liquid paraffin. Difficulties have recurred from time to time but never to any serious extent.

The Government scheme for the distribution of free Cod Liver Oil and other Vitamin containing foods was begun in December under the auspices of the Health Department

and with the help of W.V.S. workers. A special room was set aside in Bays House and the distribution took place upon four afternoons each week. The arrangements worked well and smoothly throughout.

The Ante-Natal Clinic has now three sessions per week. It was open for 110 sessions and 290 Colchester women (an increase of 75), and 108 women from neighbouring districts (an increase of 37) made 2,091 attendances. In addition 42 local women and 7 women from other districts made 75 Post-natal visits. By an arrangement with the County Council women from neighbouring County Districts may attend this Clinic.

Thus in 110 sessions 447 cases were seen by the Medical Officer and these women made 2,166 attendances, an average of almost 20 patients per session.

The Women's Welfare Clinic has been held once a month as in previous years. This is also a combined County and Borough Clinic—13 women from the Borough attended for advice and 43 from County Districts.

The Orthopædic Clinic is primarily intended for School Children but pre-school children are also seen by the specialist. During the year 33 pre-school children were seen and these attended the clinic 58 times.

The Orthopædic Massage Clinic is a necessary adjunct to the Orthopædic Clinic. In it a highly skilled Masseuse with special knowledge of orthopædic manipulations treats the cases in accordance with the directions of the Orthopædic surgeon. Treatments are often long and tedious but the results obtained are most gratifying. In 1941 the total attendances were 980 (County 317 ; Borough 663).

The Dental Clinic is available upon one afternoon each week for the dental treatment of expectant mothers and little children. These patients also when necessary attend the Dental Gas Clinic Session. During the year 42 sessions were held and 55 mothers and 23 pre-school children were treated.

Midwives.

There were 28 midwives practising in the Borough at the end of 1941: this total includes the midwives in various Institutions in the Borough. The number in private practice was 10.

Midwives Act, 1936.

	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
Births attended by the District Nursing Assoc. Midwives	66	22
Births attended by Private Midwives	230	57
Births attended in Institutions	289	250

While the work of the private midwives has remained almost stationary, the number of births attended by the District Nurses has increased by 32, i.e. more than 50% above the previous year and the Institution births have increased by 56.

In 1940 permission was obtained from the Ministry of Health to dispense with the services of the two Municipal Midwives. Although they did a small amount of good work there was really not sufficient to justify their retention and their duties were taken over by the District Nursing Association. The new arrangement has proved to be quite successful.

The Emergency Unit was called out for assistance upon 6 occasions. The medical practitioners appreciate this assistance that is offered to them for dealing with difficult midwifery cases. Three of the cases were in the Borough and three in neighbouring County Districts.

Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

Part VII Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 206-220.

	1940	1941
Children on Register 31st December	43	31
Names removed from Register	34	20
Additions during the year	20	8
Foster Mothers on Register	36	26

It is of interest to note the steady decline during the war in the use of foster mothers and it is difficult to account for this. In 1939 there were 57 children and 43 foster mothers upon the Register.

An increase of foster mothers could be easily explained by the great increase of women workers and as a result the desire of young mothers to put out their children for older women to look after. But this is evidently not so in this district. Evidently the young women prefer to work and look after their babies.

The Maternity and Nursing Homes in the Borough are all three well conducted. The one that was started a few years ago in Balcerne Lane was moved in 1941 just beyond the Borough Boundary.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—During 1941 there were 17 cases notified in the Borough. Seven were sent to the Isolation Hospital and seven were treated in St. Mary's Hospital. The other three were nursed at home.

In addition to these 8 more were sent into the Isolation Hospital from neighbouring County Districts. Thus altogether there were 25 cases of which 15 were treated in the Borough Isolation Hospital. No deaths occurred among these 25 cases.

BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.**Work of the Home.**

	1940	1941
Admitted: Borough Patients 233, from County Council Area 122, from Harwich 12, Clacton 5, Private outside district cases 8	310	380
Delivered in the Home	301	369
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only	9	8
Delivered by the Nursing Staff	155	193
Doctors	146	176
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives Acts	60	76

The enlargement of this home was completed only just in time as the above figures show. At the end of 1940 the increase of bookings had begun and in 1941 70 more cases were admitted than in the previous year—34 of these were from the Borough and 33 from County Areas. There were 9 baby deaths during the year but no maternal deaths.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1941.

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups											Cases admitted to Hospital	
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64		65 and over
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	120	—	1	6	6	6	50	17	6	19	7	2	—	106
Diphtheria ...	30	—	—	1	—	2	2	3	1	21	—	—	—	30
Acute Polio-encephalitis)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	2	—	—	7
Pneumonia ...	126	10	6	2	5	5	9	5	7	27	9	35	6	—
Typhoid Fever ...	14	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	2	2	—	12

Other Diseases Generally Notifiable.

Malaria	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	7	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	}	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	}	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	1	2	—	7
Dysentery	...	296	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4	51	63	120	55	—

Other Diseases Notifiable Locally.

Measles	...	487	14	34	46	48	53	232	12	18	26	4	—	—	17
Whooping Cough		188	15	23	28	21	26	53	12	4	5	—	1	—	10

The above Tables show a great increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia that were notified but as there was no increase in the number of deaths from this disease, it is fair to conclude that the increase was one of notifications and not of cases, of the disease.

It is gratifying to find the notification of Pneumonia cases improving, as numbers of cases of this disease have, from the time of its inclusion among the notifiable diseases, failed to get notified.

Other diseases that show an increase in the above Tables when compared with the figures for 1940 are—Typhoid, Measles, Whooping Cough and Dysentery.

During July and August, quite suddenly and unexpectedly, several cases of Typhoid (Paratyphoid B), were notified. This caused a good deal of anxiety and careful investigations and enquiries were made but all with negative results and this small increase of cases died out as suddenly as it had arisen.

The increase in Dysentery cases was largely due to Sonne Dysentery outbreaks in the Mental Institutions.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1941.

AUTHORITY SENDING IN CASES		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	German Measles	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Colchester Borough	...	88	13	12	2	1	6	2	28	152
Essex County Hospital	...	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	15
Mental Institutions	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	4
Naval and Military	...	33	34	1	9	30	—	—	111	218
Wivenhoe U.D.	...	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	7
Brightlingsea U.D.	...	7	2	—	3	—	—	—	4	16
Tendring R.D.	...	3	11	—	3	—	—	1	7	25
Lexden and Winstree R.D.	...	29	1	—	1	—	—	1	6	38
Melford R.D.	...	20	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	26
Essex County Council	...	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	35	42
Clacton	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	5
Sudbury U.D.	...	9	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	15
Frinton and Walton U.D.	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Harwich Borough	...	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	8
Braintree Jt. Hp. Board	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
TOTAL CASES...		203	75	16	22	31	15	4	214	575
DEATHS	{ COLCHESTER	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	3	7
	{ OTHER DISTRICTS	1	2	—	7	—	—	—	13	23

TOTAL: 575 Cases, 30 Deaths.

The number of patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital was nearly half the number admitted in the previous year. This was due to the great falling-off in the number of German Measles cases. There were also 100 less patients with Scarlet Fever and 60 less with Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. But the number with Diphtheria was doubled (75 to 34) and the Miscellaneous Cases increased from 148 to 214. This number included patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Mumps, Chicken-pox, Pneumonia and Diphtheria Carriers. Thirteen of these Miscellaneous Cases died—7 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 each from Tubercular Meningitis, from Chicken-pox and Encephalitis, from Measles, from Pneumonia and 2 from Whooping Cough.

It is worth noting that in 1940 only one case of Cerebro-spinal Fever died out of 82 patients admitted to the Hospital, whereas in 1941 as many as 8 died out of 22 admitted. The type of disease appeared to be much more severe in the latter year.

Scabies.

During the year 261 cases of Scabies were treated at St. Mary's First Aid Post.

For the first three months of the year Sulphur Ointment was rubbed over the patients after a hot bath upon three successive days. 54 patients were treated in this way. The results were only partly successful as 3 patients returned for further treatment in one week, 1 returned in 2 weeks, 3 returned within 4 weeks and 1 returned in 8 weeks. If the last case is considered a re-infection the result was that 7 patients out of 54 required further treatment within 4 weeks, a percentage of 13 patients not fully treated out of 100.

The next treatment tried was a Sulphur Shampoo made of Sulphur Powder, Soft Soap and a little Spirit and only two treatments were given. The results were that 207 patients were treated and of these 12 returned within a week for further treatment and 3 of these returned again within a month. Three others returned within a fortnight and 3 returned within a month. The 3 that returned for a third course of treatment may be ignored as possibly at first the treatment was not as thorough as is desirable. If these are omitted the results show that out of 207 patients treated 18 needed a second course of treatment within 4 weeks, a percentage of 8.7. Later three treatments by the Sulphur Shampoo were adopted with almost completely satisfactory results. No trouble from Dermatitis has been experienced with any of these cases and they were of both sexes and varied in ages from 7 babies under one year old to adults over 60 years of age.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5-9	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	1
10-14	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
15-19	...	2	1	2	2	...	...	1	...
20-24	...	2	3	...	3	...	2	...	1
25-34	...	8	9	2	...	1	4	...	...
35-44	...	4	6	1	...	1	1	1	...
45-54	...	5	4	...	...	5	1	...	...
55-64	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
Totals	...	26	25	12	10	8	9	2	2

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
1.6%	21.4%	43.0%	34.5%	38.1%

Tuberculosis Register.

		1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Pulmonary Cases	....	153	158	160	168	168
Other Forms of Tuberculosis		80	93	86	83	89

There is very little change in the number of cases of Tuberculosis.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

“ “ “ 1936, “ 172.

No action was found necessary under any of the above powers.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

“ “ “ 1936, “ 176.

No action was required under either of these Sections.

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., D.P.H.,

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for the Borough of Colchester.*

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.

